FIG. 4.

(3 SHEETS)
SHEET 1

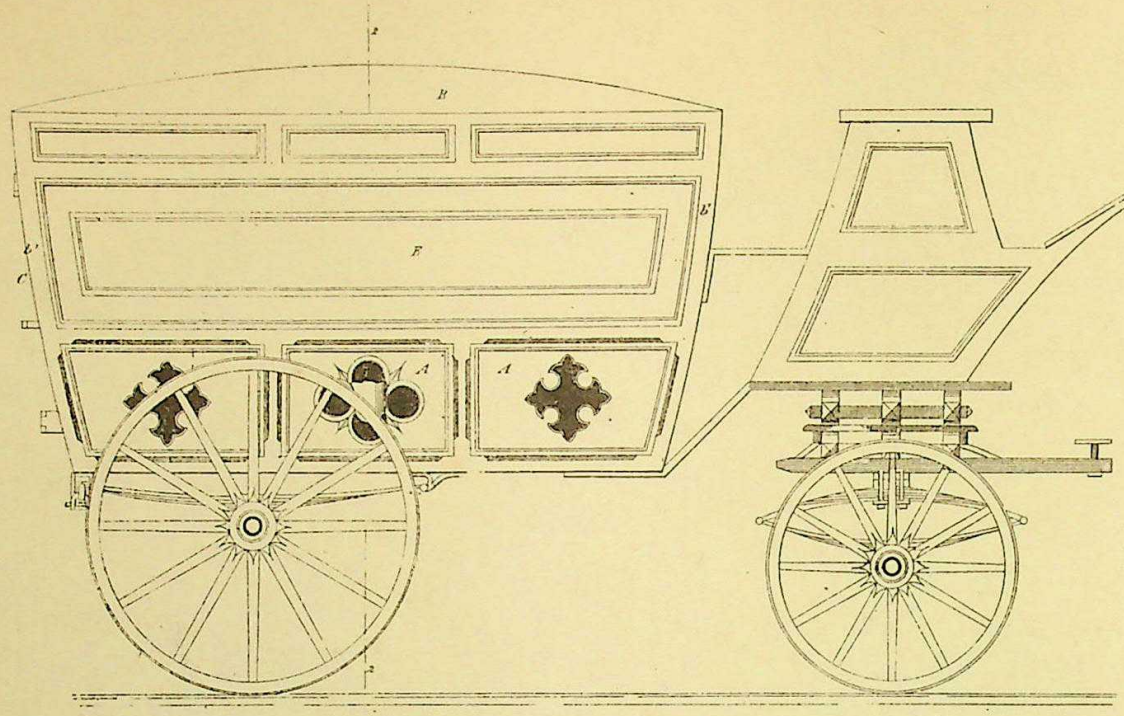


FIG. 11.

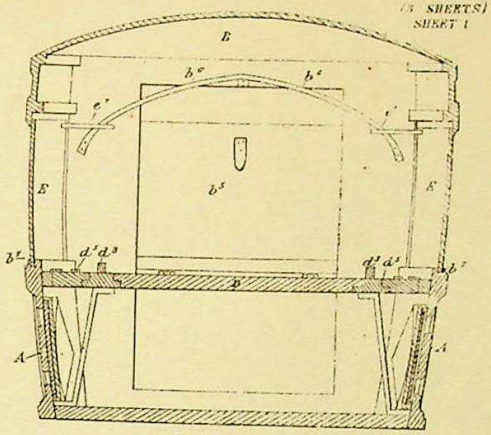


FIG. 2

FIG. 3.

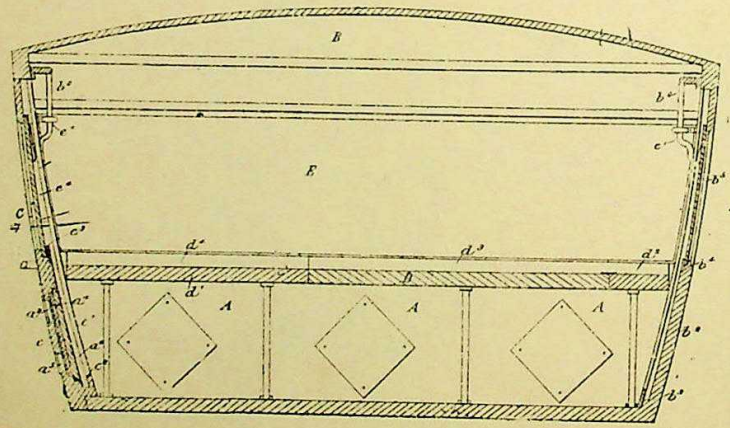


FIG. 9.

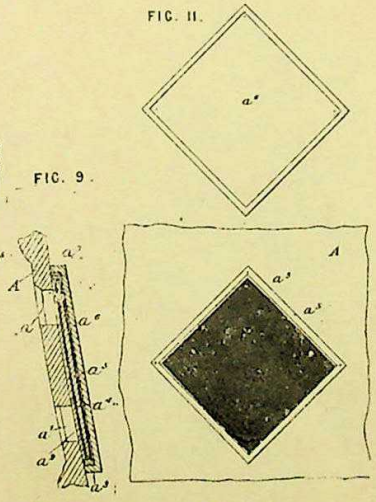
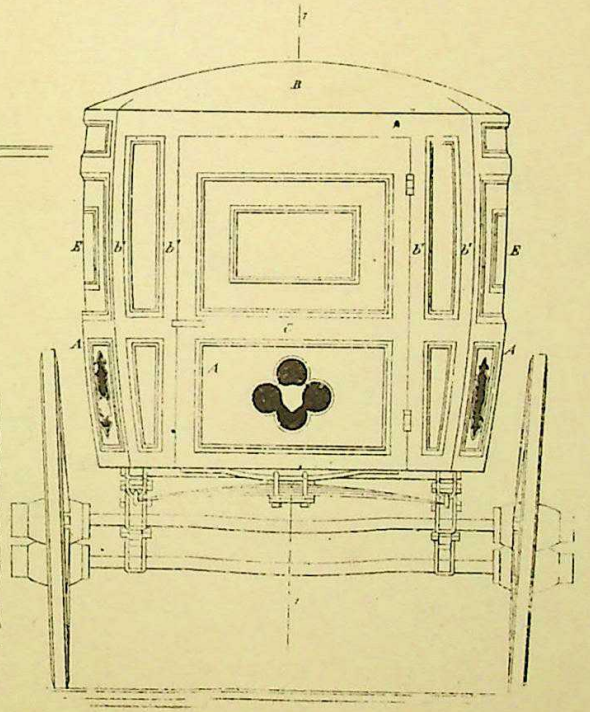


FIG. 10.



A panel with apertures a' a'
a² sheet of glass held by frame a³
a⁴ frame covered with cloth a⁵ of desired color

a⁶ cam screwed to arm a³
a⁷ removable to be reversed

FIG 5.

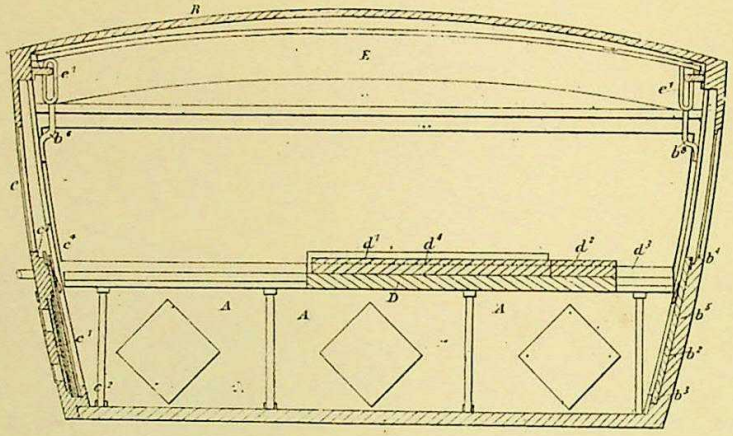


FIG. 6

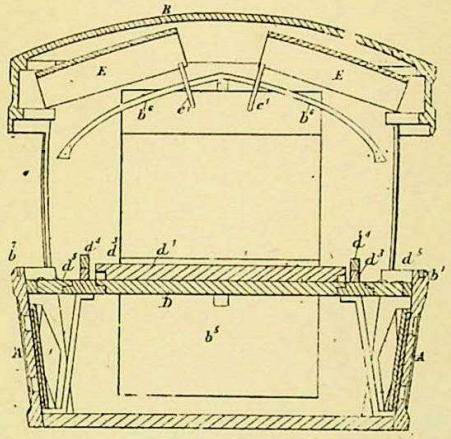


FIG. 11A

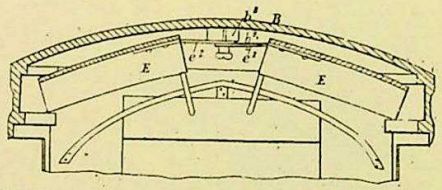


FIG. 7.

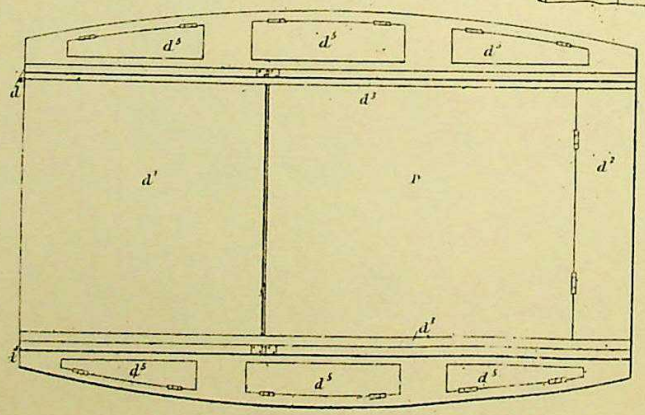
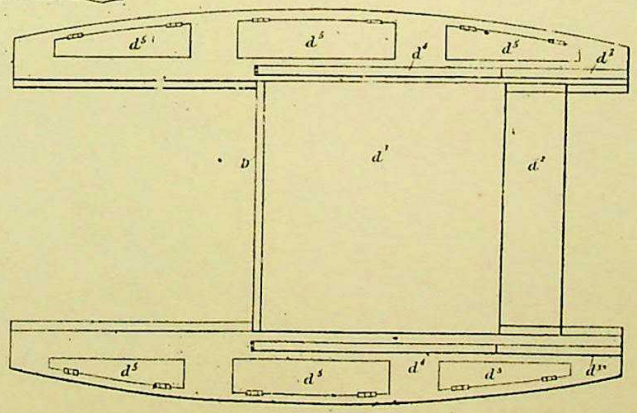


FIG. 8.



A.D. 1875. MAR. 25. N° 1035.
HATCHARD & TALBOT'S SPECIFICATION

FIG. 12.

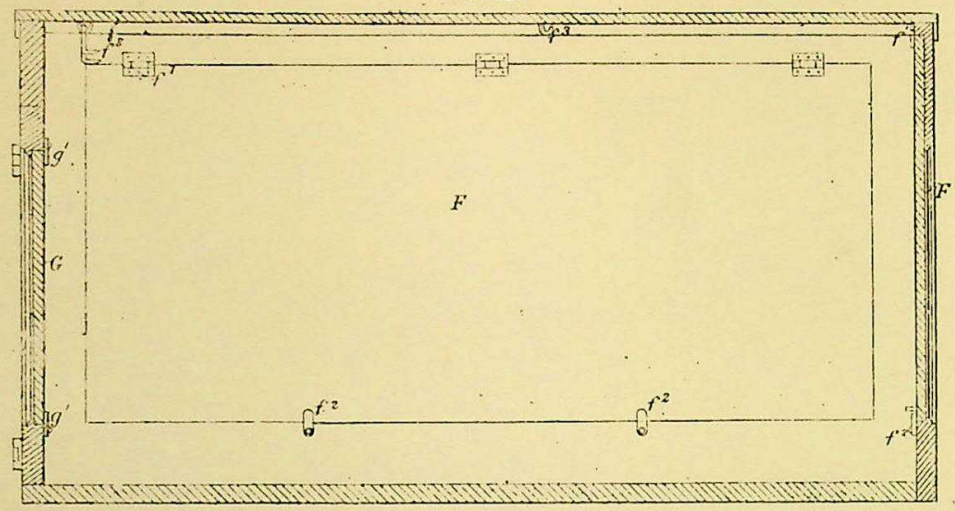
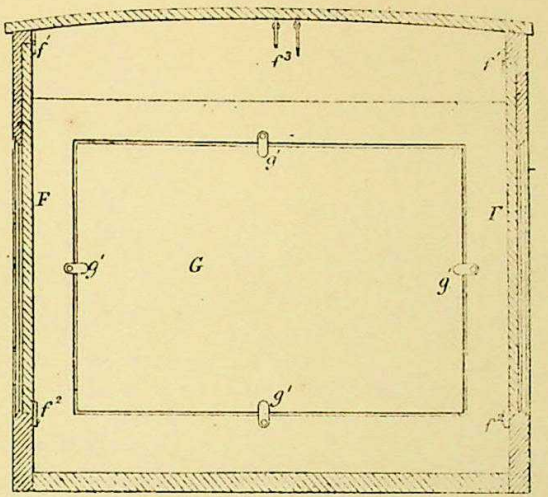


FIG. 13.



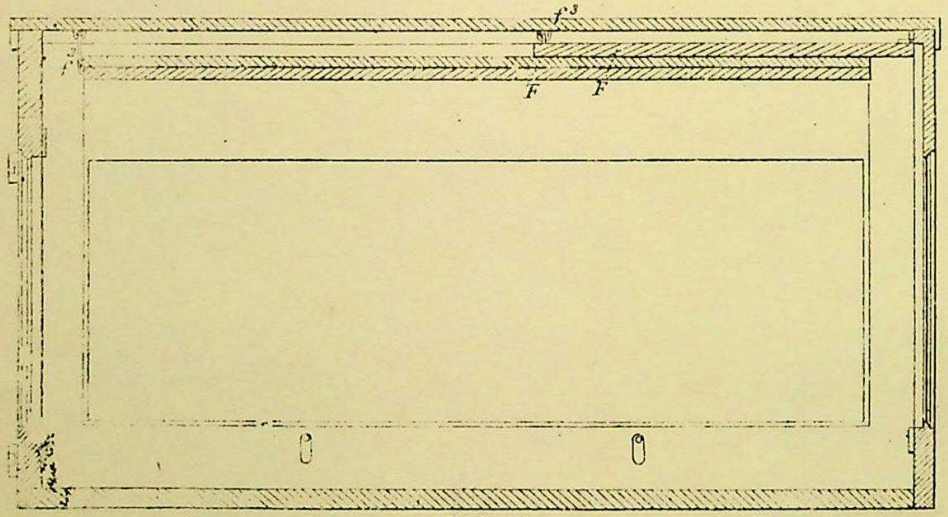


FIG. 14.

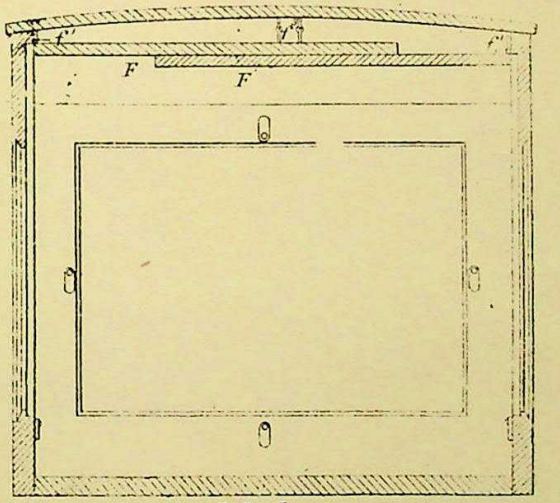


FIG. 15.

A.D. 1875, 25*th* MARCH. N° 1095.

Hearses and Biers.

LETTERS PATENT to Samuel Hatchard, the younger, of No. 47, Crawford Street, Bryanston Square, in the County of Middlesex, Funeral Furnisher, and Frederick Talbot, the younger, of the Retreat, Haverstock Hill, in the County of Middlesex, Gentleman, for the Invention of "IMPROVEMENTS IN HEARSES AND BIERS."

Sealed the 28th May 1875, and dated the 25th March 1875.

PROVISIONAL SPECIFICATION left by the said Samuel Hatchard and Frederick Talbot at the Office of the Commissioners of Patents, with their Petition, on the 25th March 1875.

We, SAMUEL HATCHARD, the younger, of No. 47, Crawford Street, Bryanston Square, in the County of Middlesex, Funeral Furnisher, and FREDERICK TALBOT, the younger, of the Retreat, Haverstock Hill, in the County of Middlesex, Gentleman, do hereby declare the nature of the said Invention for "IMPROVEMENTS IN HEARSES AND BIERS," to be as follows:—

Our Invention consists, firstly, in constructing hearses as herein-after described so as to admit of the same hearse being used either open or

closed, and to afford accommodation inside for the undertaker's men and funeral trappings on their return from funerals.

We make the frame of the hearse of the usual length, but of sufficient height and width to afford the necessary internal accommodation. The lower part of the hearse is closed by panels. The upper part is open and carries the roof, the said upper part being furnished with moveable shutters or moveable flaps (sliding, hinged, or otherwise), of suitable size and shape by means of which the sides and front of the said upper part can be closed so as to convert the hearse from an open hearse into a closed hearse when required, the door being furnished with a sliding or otherwise moveable shutter; or a flap may be hinged or otherwise applied to the said door or to the frame at that part. Inside the hearse and at about the level of the upper edge of the panels aforesaid we construct a platform for the coffin, one portion of which platform is fixed, the other portion being hinged or otherwise arranged so as to be capable of being turned up or removed out of the way to give access to the seats constructed at that part of the hearse. After the funeral the funeral trappings may be placed inside the hearse and the undertaker's men sit on the seats aforesaid.

That part of our Invention which consists in making hearses with a frame provided with moveable shutters or flaps, as herein-before described is also applicable to biers, which when thus constructed can be used either open or closed.

Our Invention further consists in ornamenting the panels of hearses, and biers as herein-after described :—We cut away portions of the said panels so as to form therein ornamental apertures, and we mount behind the said panels other panels or boards covered with black, white, or coloured cloth or other textile material, interposing between the said boards and panels sheets of glass to protect the cloth or other textile material from the weather; or instead of cloth covered boards protected by glass; we mount behind the said panels sheets or plates of metal or other suitable material; or the panels may be solid and other panels having ornamental apertures therein may be fixed outside the solid panels; in either case the surface behind the ornamental panels is visible through the apertures therein.

Hatchard & Talbot's Improvements in Hearses and Biers.

SPECIFICATION in pursuance of the conditions of the Letters Patent, filed by the said Samuel Hatchard and Frederick Talbot in the Great Seal Patent Office on the 25th September 1875.

TO ALL TO WHOM THESE PRESENTS SHALL COME, we, SAMUEL HATCHARD, the younger, of No. 47, Crawford Street, Bryanstone Square, in the County of Middlesex, Funeral Furnisher, and FREDERICK TALBOT, the younger, of the Retreat, Haverstock Hill, in the County of Middlesex, Gentleman, send greeting.

WHEREAS Her most Excellent Majesty Queen Victoria, by Her Letters Patent, bearing date the Twenty-fifth day of March, in the year of our Lord One thousand eight hundred and seventy-five, in the thirty-eighth year of Her reign, did, for Herself, Her heirs and successors, give and grant unto us, the said Samuel Hatchard and Frederick Talbot, Her special license, that we, the said Samuel Hatchard and Frederick Talbot, our executors, administrators, and assigns, or such others as we, the said Samuel Hatchard and Frederick Talbot, our executors, administrators, and assigns, should at any time agree with, and no others, from time to time and at all times thereafter during the term therein expressed, should and lawfully might make, use, exercise, and vend, within the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland, the Channel Islands, and Isle of Man, an Invention for "IMPROVEMENTS IN HEARSES AND BIERS," upon the condition (amongst others) that we, the said Samuel Hatchard and Frederick Talbot, our executors or administrators, by an instrument in writing under our or their hands and seals, or under the hand and seal of one of us or them, should particularly describe and ascertain the nature of the said Invention, and in what manner the same was to be performed, and cause the same to be filed in the Great Seal Patent Office within six calendar months next and immediately after the date of the said Letters Patent.

NOW KNOW YE, that I, the said Frederick Talbot, on behalf of the said Samuel Hatchard and myself, do hereby declare the nature of the said Invention, and in what manner the same is to be performed, to be particularly described and ascertained in and by the following statement thereof, that is to say :—

Our Invention consists, firstly, in constructing hearses, as herein-after described so as to admit of the same hearse being used either open or

closed, and to afford accommodation inside for the undertaker's men and funeral trappings on their return from funerals.

We make the frame of the hearse of the usual length but of sufficient height and width to afford the necessary internal accommodation. The lower part of the hearse is closed by panels; the upper part is open and carries the roof, the said upper part being furnished with moveable shutters or moveable flaps (sliding, hinged, or otherwise), of suitable size and shape, by means of which the sides and front of the said upper part can be closed so as to convert the hearse from an open hearse into a closed hearse when required, the door being furnished with a sliding or otherwise moveable shutter. Or a flap may be hinged or otherwise applied to the said door or to the frame at that part. Inside the hearse and at about the level of the upper edge of the panels aforesaid we construct a platform for the coffin, one portion of which platform is fixed, the other portion being hinged or otherwise arranged so as to be capable of being turned up or removed out of the way to give access to the seats constructed at that part of the hearse. After the funeral the funeral trappings may be placed inside the hearse and the undertaker's men sit on the seats aforesaid.

That part of our Invention which consists in making hearses with a frame provided with moveable shutters or flaps, as herein-before described, is also applicable to biers and to other vehicles, such as pleasure vans, which, when thus constructed, can be used either open or closed.

Our Invention further consists in ornamenting the panels of hearses and biers as herein-after described:—We cut away portions of the said panels so as to form therein ornamental apertures, and we mount behind the said panels other panels or boards covered with black, white, or coloured cloth or other textile material, interposing between the said boards and panels sheets of glass to protect the cloth or other textile material from the weather; or instead of cloth covered boards protected by glass we mount behind the said panels sheets or plates of metal or other suitable material. Or the panels may be solid and other panels having ornamental apertures therein may be fixed outside the solid panels. In either case the surface behind the ornamental panels is visible through the apertures therein.

Having now explained the nature of our Invention we will proceed to describe the manner in which the same is to be performed, reference being had to the accompanying Drawings and to the letters and figures

marked thereon. The same letters of reference indicate the same parts in the several Figures of the Drawings.

Figure 1 is a side elevation, and Figure 2 an end elevation of a hearse so constructed as to admit of its being used either open or closed, and to afford accommodation inside for the undertaker's men and funeral trappings; Figure 3 is a longitudinal section (taken on the line 1, Figure 2); and Figure 4 is a transverse section (taken on the line 2, Figure 1) of the body of the said hearse; Figures 5 and 6 are like sections showing the hearse open and the moveable parts of the platform arranged to form seats; Figures 7 and 8 represent the said platform separately in plan.

A, A, are the panels which close the lower part of the hearse; B is the roof, and b^1, b^1, the parts of the hearse by which the roof is supported; C is the door in the frame of which and on the inner side grooves or recesses c^1, c^2, c^3, are formed; b^2, b^3, b^4, are similar grooves or recesses formed in the front end of the hearse; b^7, b^7, are grooves formed in the frame above the panels A; E, E, b^5, are the shutters by which the sides and front of the hearse are closed when required; and c^4 is the shutter by which the aperture in the door C may be closed; e^1, e^1, are loops of metal affixed to the shutters E, E; b^6, b^6, are rods on which the loops e^1, e^1, work, which rods are affixed to the frame of the hearse at the front and back parts thereof.

The shutters E, E, when open lie under the roof, the upper end of each of the said shutters being supported by the rods b^6, b^6, and the lower end by one of the battens of the frame of the hearse as illustrated in Figures 5 and 6. When closed the lower parts of the said shutters rest in the grooves b^7, b^7, and the upper parts are held in position by the loops e^1, e^1, and rods b^6, b^6.

If it be required to secure the shutters E, E, when open, a fastening of any suitable form may be used for securing them to the roof or sides of the hearse. The fastening which we prefer is illustrated separately in Figure 11[A], which is a section of the upper portion of the hearse, the said section being taken on the line 2, Figure 1. The said fastening consists of strips of metal e^2, e^2, affixed to the shutters E, E, in the ends of which strips holes are formed; b^8 is a block affixed to the under side of the roof B; and b^9 is a screw which engages with a screw nut carried by the block b^8. When the shutters E, E, are raised they may be locked in

that position by passing the screw b^9 through the holes in the strips c^2, c^2, and screwing it into the nut carried by the block b^8.

The arrangement of the shutters b^5 and c^4 is similar to that of an ordinary carriage window, the said shutters being lowered into the grooves or recesses b^3, c^2, or raised until the lower parts engage with the recesses b^4, c^3, according as it is wished to open or close the upper part of the hearse. If preferred the shutters E, E, may be arranged as described with reference to the shutters b^5, c^4.

The platform for the coffin consists of a fixed portion D, a removeable portion d^1, and a hinged flap d^2. Affixed to the said platform are ribs d^3 to which other ribs d^4 are hinged so as to be capable of being turned back thereon. The said ribs d^3, d^3, d^4, d^4, are for the purpose of guiding the coffin while it is being placed in the hearse; d^5, d^5 are hinged flaps by raising which access may be gained to the ornamental panels when it is wished to change the cloth lining thereof. The part d^1 may either be arranged as shown, so as to be capable of being lifted out, or it may be hinged to the part D so as to be capable of being turned back thereon.

The arrangement of the parts of the ornamental panels at the sides of the hearse is illustrated separately on a larger scale in Figures 9, 10, and 11, Figure 9 being a section of one of the said panels, Figure 10 an elevation of the inner side (the cover herein-after described being removed), and Figure 11, an elevation of the said cover. A is the panel in which an aperture or apertures a^1, a^1, of any desired ornamental shape is or are cut; a^2 is a sheet of glass mounted behind the said panel and kept in place by the frame a^3; a^4 is a board covered with cloth or other textile material a^5, which may be of any desired colour, and a^6 is a cover screwed to the frame a^3. The board a^4 may be removed when it is wished to cover it with cloth of another colour by unscrewing the cover a^6. The said cover may be hinged on one side to the frame a^3 and secured when closed by a suitable fastening instead of being screwed thereto as illustrated.

The arrangement of the parts of the ornamental panel c in the door C is essentially similar to that of the side panels described, the difference being that the frame a^3 is dispensed with, and the glass a^2, cloth covered board a^4, and cover a^6 are let into the panel c so that the outer surface of the said cover lies flush with the inner surface of the said panel. The arrangement illustrated and described with reference to the side

panels A, A, may however, if preferred be used for the door which in that case would be made thicker.

Instead of the board a^4 covered with cloth and protected by the glass a^2 sheets or plates of metal or other suitable material may be used.

The shutters E, E, b^5, and c^4, may if desired be ornamented in the manner described with reference to the panels A, A, and c.

Instead of cutting apertures in the panels A, A, other panels in which ornamental apertures are cut may be fixed outside the said panels A, A, the surface behind the said ornamental panels being visible through the apertures therein.

When the hearse is to be used open the shutters E, E, are pushed up and the shutters c^4, b^5 are lowered into the positions represented in Figures 5 and 6.

When it is wished to provide seats for the men the ribs d^4, d^4, and the flap d^2 are turned back on their hinges and the removeable portion d^1 of the platform D is raised from its place and laid on the fixed portion, as illustrated in Figures 5, 6, 7, and 8, thus forming seats at the front and rear parts of the said platform for the undertaker's men.

Figures 12 and 13 are central longitudinal and transverse sections respectively of the body of a hearse of the ordinary form provided with moveable shutters according to our Invention; Figures 14 and 15 are similar sections showing the shutters opened. F, F, are the shutters of the sides and front, hinged at f^1, f^1, to the upper part of the frame of the hearse and held in their closed position by the buttons f^2, f^2; f^3, f^3, are hooks by which the said shutters are held when opened; G is the shutter of the door which is held in its place by the fastenings g^1, g^1. When it is wished to use the hearse open the shutters F, F, F, are turned up under the roof and secured by the fastenings f^3, f^3, f^3, and the shutter G is removed as illustrated in Figures 14 and 15. This arrangement and the arrangement described with reference to the shutters E, E, Figures 1 to 6, are applicable to biers and to pleasure vans, and to other vehicles, which are required to be capable of being used either open or closed.

Having now described the nature of our Invention and the manner in which the same is to be performed, we wish it to be understood that we do not limit ourselves to the precise details herein-before described and

illustrated, as the same may be varied without departing from the nature of our Invention, but we claim as our said Invention,—

Firstly. The general construction and arrangement of the hearse herein-before described and illustrated in Figures 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, and 8, of the accompanying Drawings, that is to say, forming at the upper parts of the sides, front, and door, openings which may be closed by moveable panels or shutters, and constructing in the said hearse a platform for the coffin, portions of which platform are capable of being so arranged as to form seats, essentially as described and illustrated.

Secondly. Ornamenting the panels of hearses and biers (whether constructed according to our Invention, or of the ordinary or other construction) by cutting away portions of the said panels and mounting behind the apertures so formed boards covered with textile material protected by glass, or mounting behind the said apertures sheets or plates of metal or other suitable material essentially as herein-before described and illustrated.

Thirdly, Constructing hearses and biers so that the front, sides, and back thereof may be opened or closed by means of sliding, hinged, or otherwise moveable shutters, panels, or flaps, essentially as herein-before described.

In witness whereof, I, the said Frederick Talbot, have hereunto set my hand and seal, this Twenty-fourth day of September, in the year of our Lord One thousand eight hundred and seventy-five.

FREDERICK TALBOT. (L.S.)

Witness,
B. Willcox,
Clerk to H. H. Murdoch,
7, Staple Inn,
London.

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